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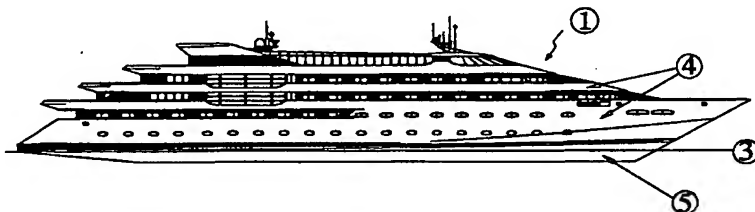
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶: B63B 35/44	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/20521 (43) International Publication Date: 29 April 1999 (29.04.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/FI98/00819 (22) International Filing Date: 20 October 1998 (20.10.98) (30) Priority Data: 974010 21 October 1997 (21.10.97) FI (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KUNTOU-TUSYHTYMÄ - REHAB GROUP OY [FV/FI]; Eerikinkatu 7 b B, FIN-20100 Turku (FI). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): NIEMI, Pekka [FV/FI]; Rientolankatu 16 D, FIN-20750 Turku (FI). (74) Agent: TURUN PATENTTITOIMISTO OY; P.O. Box 99, FIN-20521 Turku (FI).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>In English translation (filed in Finnish).</i>

(54) Title: A BUILDING AND USE THEREOF



(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a building which has a floating hull (1) and in which there are premises (2) for restaurant, hotel or other tourist use. According to the invention, its hull (1) is navigable, which means that its upper part (4) above the waterline (3) is shiplike, e.g., like a luxury cruiser, whereas its lower part (5) below the waterline is flat and bargelike. The building with floating hull according to the invention can be transported by water for a desired period to places where there is seasonal demand for its services.

A building and use thereof

The object of the invention is a building with a floating hull, containing premises for restaurant, hotel and/or other tourist use. The invention also relates
5 to the use of such building with floating hull.

It is already known that different kinds of old discarded ships have been modified for restaurant or hotel use. It is often characteristic of these ships that the premises as such are not, without extensive modifications and costs, directly
10 suitable for their new use and even after the modifications, they do not meet the modern requirements as to the hygiene and safety standards (e.g. operativeness of electrification, sewerage and air-conditioning; asbestos problems). The quality standard of such ships does not fulfill the wishes of a modern man, unlike if they originally were designed especially for said use.

15

Several kinds of constructions built on floating platforms have been designed and even carried out, as can be seen for example from the German patent publication (DE 40 04 673 A 1) relating to a floating hotel or from the European patent publication (EP 0 082 034 A1) relating to a floating hospital.
20 An example of a hotel built on a floating platform, also called as "floatel", is a floating hotel in Saigon, Vietnam. The above-described floating solutions are not, however, equally navigable, easily transportable nor safely towable.

Neither ones of the above-mentioned solutions, discarded ships or floatels, have
25 such an appearance that they would attract tourists or would otherwise beneficially contribute to the surrounding landscape with their appearance.

The object of the present invention is to eliminate the drawbacks of the above-

world class sports events et cetera are occasions where the own accomodation capacity of the locality in question is not sufficient to meet the demand, and extra capacity is temporarily needed. If the area is by a river or a sea, a building with floating hull according to the invention can be towed there. Its use can be
5 planned in advance so that it operates in a certain place for a certain period of time, as long as the the tourist or other season lasts, after which it is transported to the next place that is in advance reserved for it and that is built or designed especially in view of locating a vessel. Therefore, the building with floating hull according to the invention can have two or more regular harbour or mooring
10 places in each of which hotel and restaurant business is carried on. Tourist business based on this kind of transportable hotel system can thus be permanently carried on.

As special attention is paid to esthetic values and the appearance of the ship
15 when designing the building with floating hull according to the invention, it is a favourable surplus to any harbour or sea environment due to its marine appearance. This means also a whole new product in the field of marine industry and creates for the shipyards a possibility to turn to new lines of production.

20

Even though the building with floating hull according to the invention can be built without an engine and transmission means, it is evident that, if need be, it can be equipped with them, as well as with navigation devices.

25 Due to its shiplikeness, the building with floating hull according to the invention is navigable and therefore registrable. It can thus be easily moved for a required period by water to a place where there is demand for its services. It can also be a replica, i.e. remind an old well-known ship, either in natural size

so that the waters are not polluted from the condensation waters, oil emissions or other pollutants.

The invention is described in further detail below with reference to the enclosed
5 drawing in which Fig. 1 shows a building with floating hull according to the invention from the side and Fig. 2 the same building partly cut away.

In the drawing, the floating hull of the building is generally designated with reference numeral 1 and the premises therein for restaurant, hotel or other
10 tourist use with reference numeral 2. The Figures show that the upper part 4 of the navigable hull 1 above the waterline 3 resembles a luxury cruiser whereas the lower part 5 below the waterline is flat and with shallow draught, i.e. the ship's bottom does not narrow down but instead sharply turns flat-bottomed, which allows to attain high tonnage and yet shallow draught.

15

The building with floating hull can additionally be equipped with own engine 6 and transmission means 7 in order to transport it by water for a required period to a place where there is demand for the services it offers.

20 The solution according to the invention allows to provide luxurious hotel and restaurant services with lesser realization expenses, compared e.g to a cruise liner, to touristically interesting seaside areas to which it is uneconomical to build or to which it, for some reason, is not possible to build, like for example to town centers or to places where the demand for hotel services is occasionally
25 bigger than normal, such as in connection with fairs, sports events or the like, in which case they are transported seasonally according to an advance plan for a certain period from one especially for them built terminal or mooring place to another.

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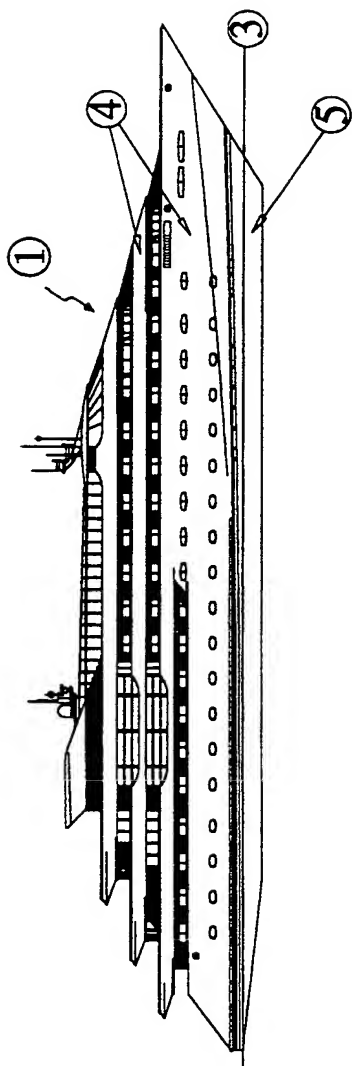


Fig. 1

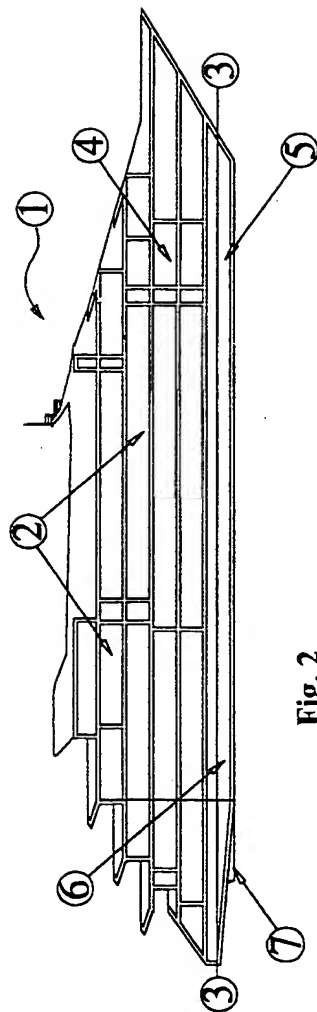


Fig. 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI 98/00819

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC6: B63B 35/44 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC6: B63B, E04H		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
EDOC		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 4004673 A1 (LOIDL, WALTER), 22 August 1991 (22.08.91) --	1-4
X	GB 2083415 A (ANDREW FORESTER-ZBOROWSKI ET AL), 24 March 1982 (24.03.82), page 1, line 42 - line 74, figures 1-3 --	1-4
X	GB 2120298 A (MICHAEL POWELL), 30 November 1983 (30.11.83), page 1, line 15 - line 27, figure 1 --	1-4
A	GB 2103550 A (LEONARD WIESTAW JOZEFOWSKI ET AL), 23 February 1983 (23.02.83) --	1-4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
2 February 1999		04 -02- 1999
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Swedish Patent Office Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86		Authorized officer Christer Jönsson Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

21/12/98

International application No.

PCT/FI 98/00819

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE	4004673	A1	22/08/91	NONE	
GB	2083415	A	24/03/82	NONE	
GB	2120298	A	30/11/83	NONE	
GB	2103550	A	23/02/83	NONE	
DE	4310086	A1	28/07/94	NONE	